



# West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit: Mission Policy (v1.0)

***“The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”***

**In this, and in partnership with others wherever possible, West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Methodist Circuit will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority.**

**Circuit Mission Statement:** We encourage and support each church to share God’s love in Jesus with all people through worship, mission, outreach and service within their local communities.

Our Calling	As a Circuit we will...
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and enable vibrant, relevant and varied God-centred worship at circuit and church level that motivates and encourages all who attend</li> <li>• Encourage and make available varied worship opportunities appropriate for people of all ages, during the week as well as on Sundays</li> <li>• Offer safe places for worship and acceptance to the communities around us</li> <li>• Facilitate the worship of God in places other than our buildings (e.g. residential homes, new areas of housing)</li> <li>• Encourage and support the use of technology in our churches</li> <li>• Support the training and development of our ordained and lay people including local preachers, worship leaders, and others</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Learning and Caring</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support churches and resource members in continuing to grow in Christian discipleship including prayer</li> <li>• Encourage and support each other at all stages of the faith journey</li> <li>• Create loving communities characterised by hospitality, generosity, welcome, care, acceptance and respect</li> </ul>

Our Calling	As a Circuit we will...
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Service</b></p> <p>The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspire an outward-looking focus to the life and service of the churches within the circuit to support those in need in our community and the wider world</li> <li>• Where possible provide safe, welcoming, warm, well maintained, disability- and child-friendly, inclusive premises to give space and opportunity for church and community activities</li> <li>• Work for justice and peace and care for the environment in the local area, the nation and the wider world</li> <li>• Encourage members to regard being active in service as part of their Christian life</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evangelism</b></p> <p>The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place greater emphasis on sharing our faith and promote this by pooling resources and sharing experiences within the circuit</li> <li>• Provide more opportunities to explore the Bible and Christian faith, and build the confidence to share it with others</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resourcing our Calling</b></p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Staffing</li> <li>▪ Communications</li> <li>▪ Finance</li> <li>▪ Property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate resources are needed to underpin all of the above within the context of the whole work of the circuit</li> </ul>

**Sources:**

- 1) West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit Emerging Strategy – Feb 2020
- 2) Write a great mission plan: Sample Mission Plans  
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/leading-churches-into-growth/write-a-great-mission-plan/sample-mission-plans/>
- 3) Mission Planning Toolkit  
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/leading-churches-into-growth/write-a-great-mission-plan/mission-planning-toolkit/>
- 4) Doncaster Methodist Church Mission Statement  
<https://www.doncastermethodistcircuit.org.uk/aboutus.htm>